

# ***Report***

# **Roosevelt Campobello International Park**

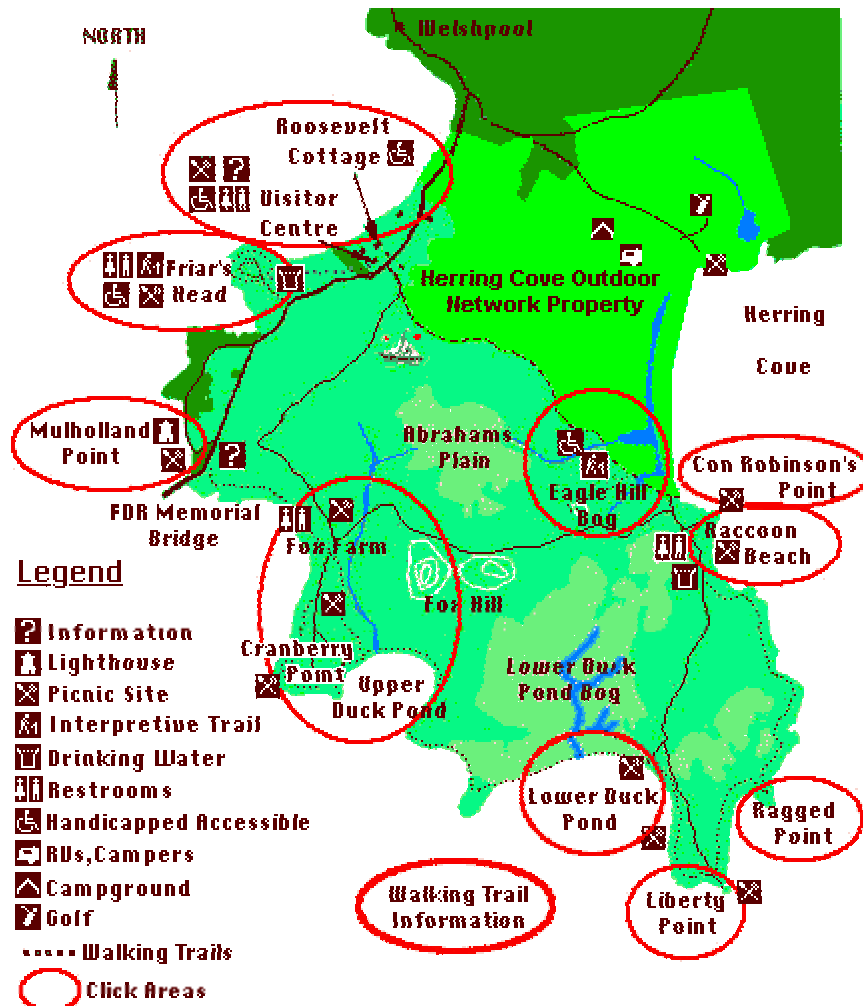
## **■ 1.0 Site Description**

The Roosevelt Campobello International Park, encompassing 2,800 acres, is a joint memorial by Canada and the United States, which includes the cottage and grounds where President Franklin D. Roosevelt vacationed as a child and as an adult. The Park, physically located in Welshpool, New Brunswick, Canada, is administered by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission, a joint United States/Canadian Commission. It is not a unit of the U.S. NPS or Parks Canada.

The Roosevelt Cottage, completed in 1885, is the centerpiece of the Park. On display are the rooms used as FDR's office, his bedroom, various family rooms, and the room where FDR was born. Tours through the home are self-guiding although guides are stationed throughout to answer questions and provide interpretation. Four additional cottages, dating from the same period, have also been acquired by the Commission. These cottages are periodically used as part of a conference program hosted by the Park. In the vicinity of the Roosevelt Cottage are walks by gardens and landscaping of the Roosevelt era, and wooded paths and fields with vistas of islands and the New Brunswick and Maine shoreline. West of the Cottage is Friar's Head, with a picnic area and nature trails. Adjacent to the Cottage is a Visitor Center which provides a video orientation and other FDR exhibits. All visitors to the historic areas of the Park must first pass through the Visitor Center although it can be bypassed by visitors to the outlying natural areas. The various facilities and trails on Campobello Island are shown in Figure 1. It should be noted that the Park comprises only 25 percent of Campobello Island and that the remainder of the island includes the towns of Welshpool and Wilson's Head.

Visitation to Roosevelt Campobello International Park is approximately 120,000 to 130,000 visitors annually. The Cottage facilities are open to the public June through October, with peak visitation in the fall during the foliage season. However the Island, including the natural areas of the Park itself, is accessible to the general public throughout the year. Due primarily to interest in FDR, the majority of Park visitation is from the United States. Approximately 13 percent of Park visitors are from Canada. Local residents use the Park for picnicking. Parts of the Park are also open to hunters.

Figure 1. Map of Campobello Island



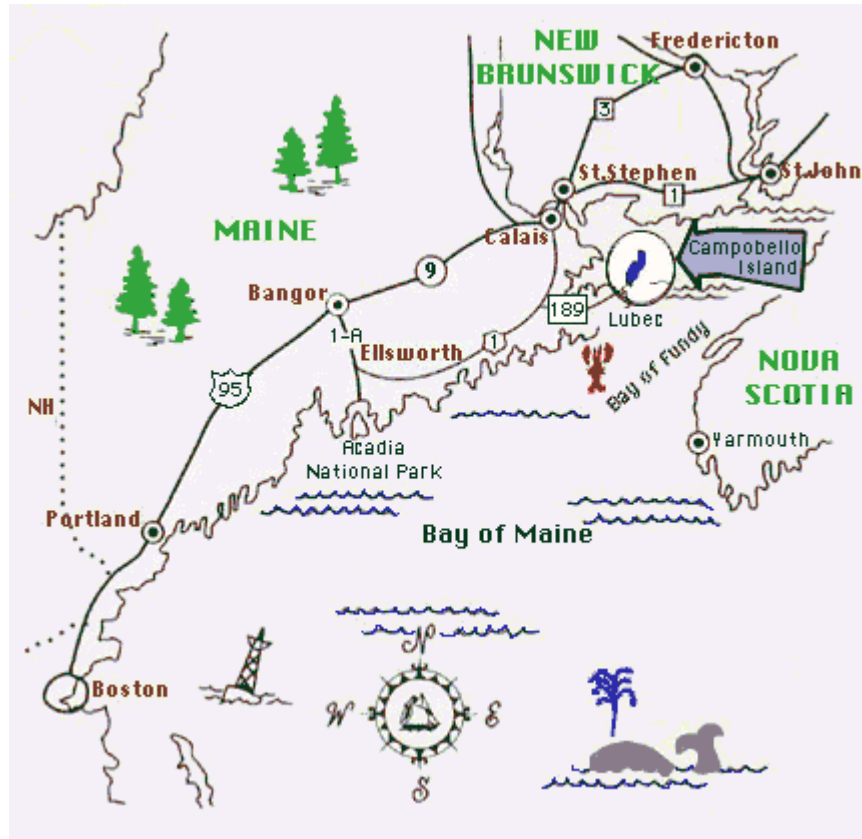
## ■ 2.0 Existing ATS

Access to Campobello Island from the United States is via the International Bridge from Lubec, Maine. Because the Park is located in Canada, visitors from the United States must pass through Customs when crossing into Canada. A map showing the location of the Island and connecting roadways is shown in Figure 2.

The Superintendent noted that signage from major highways and on local roads leading to the Park is quite good and that local authorities have been very cooperative in posting directional signs. Visitors access the island primarily by private automobile and tour bus. Most bus tours to the Island originate from the New England area and visit Campobello as part of tours of the general coastal region. There are currently no Alternative Transportation Systems (ATS) available although a privately operated van provides tours of the island. A passenger ferry service is expected to begin operation in June 2000 with

capacity for 50 passengers from St. Andrews, New Brunswick, pending completion of a ferry dock on Campobello Island. The ferry is to be operated by the Quoddy Link Marina which also operates whale watch tours and excursions to other islands. Three round-trips per day are planned. The dock site is within walking distance to the historic areas of the Park and a two-mile walking trail. Other connections would be necessary to reach more remote destinations elsewhere in the Park.

**Figure 2. Access to Campobello Island**



### ■ 3.0 ATS Needs

Based on current visitation patterns and volumes, the Superintendent of the Park does not see a significant need for ATS at this time. Because of its distance from major population centers, most visitors arrive at the Park by private automobile or tour bus. The pending implementation of ferry service from St. Andrews presents a potential opportunity for ATS to shuttle visitors from the ferry landing to the more remote areas of the Park. However, the historic area, including the Roosevelt Cottage, is within walking distance from the dock site and the volume of demand for shuttle access to outlying locations is likely to be too limited to warrant regular service except under special conditions. Depending upon the volume of use which the ferry experiences, the Superintendent noted that there

may be a need to expand the existing parking lot in St. Andrews although there are no plans to do so at this time. In discussing the possibility of a shuttle bus from a landside parking area from the United States side, the Superintendent noted that there is no obvious location for the siting of a parking/staging area and such a service would present an issue regarding the processing of visitors through Customs. (Passengers on tour buses make prior arrangements for Customs which are facilitated by the bus driver.)

Regarding possible improvements to existing Park infrastructure, the Superintendent noted that there is an eight-and-one-half-mile gravel road which provides access into the Park's natural areas. This road is quite narrow and difficult to maintain due to drainage problems. Although it would continue to be maintained as a gravel road, the Superintendent felt that improvements such as ditching and culverts are needed for adequate maintenance. The Superintendent also indicated that in the future, depending upon the potential for increased visitation facilitated through the new ferry service, there may be a need to expand the current parking area in the vicinity of the Visitor Center to accommodate shuttle service for visitors arriving without automobiles. Currently the parking area is able to accommodate 75 automobiles and six buses. This is generally adequate to meet existing demand. However, expansion of the parking area, by approximately one-third to 100 auto spaces, would provide the potential to accommodate an internal Park shuttle as well as address infrequent overloading.

## ■ 4.0 Basis of ATS Needs

There is little apparent need for ATS at Roosevelt Campobello International Park at this time. The Park's existing infrastructure is adequate to handle current levels of visitation and the volume of automobiles and tour buses accessing the site. In the future, potential increased visitation by visitors arriving by ferry could generate demand for a shuttle service to transport visitors beyond the Park's historic area, into the outlying natural areas. In the meantime, consideration should be given to improving maintenance of the Park's road system and possible expansion of the existing parking area to accommodate a shuttle service should such a system be implemented in the future.

## ■ 5.0 Persons Interviewed

Paul Cole, Superintendent of International Park and Executive Secretary of International Park Commission